



PRESIDENT DOCKING AND FACULTY, COOKMAN INSTITUTE, JACKSONVILLE, FLA.

## **Cookman Institute, Jacksonville, Fla.**

**Rev. J. T. Docking, Ph.D., President**

**C**OOKMAN INSTITUTE, one of the schools of the Freedmen's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, was opened in Jacksonville, Fla., in 1872, as a night school, by Rev. S. B. Darnell, pastor of the white Methodist Church in the city. For many years it was the only school for colored people in the state.

The institution was named in honor of Rev. Alfred Cookman, and for thirty-seven years has been a center of Christian culture and training, placing its greatest emphasis upon the moral and religious instruction of its students. Its influence has been such that not one of its graduates has ever had his name upon the police record, and there never has been a lynching within the borders of the county in which the school is located.

It has been home and church as well as a school for its students, and its graduates are found in all sections of the South, in Africa, and even in the islands of the sea. Bishop Grant, one of the leading colored educators of the South, began to read his primer at Cookman. Hon. L. W. Livingstone, United States

consul at Hayti, was among the early graduates of the institute, and four of the leading colored physicians in Jacksonville, Fla., are numbered among the alumni.

### **"Business Rating" of Cookman**

The 487 students of 1908 represented nearly every county in Florida and several counties in southern Georgia. The course of study in the institution is arranged with special recognition of its adaptability and service to Negro youth. Students completing its curriculum are admitted to the freshman class of the best universities, North and South. The business rating of the institution is of a high character and its affairs are conducted with prudence and economy. It is a matter of record that no creditor is obliged to wait a single day for the payment of his bills, and this business demonstration means much for the standing of the school among both the white and the colored population. To the latter it is an example for the people, and it commends the institution to the white people as one worthy of support.

### **"Forty Students taught in a Hole"**

When the disastrous fire swept Jacksonville a few years ago, the institute was in its destructive path. The Freedmen's Aid Society at once purchased the present site, which includes eight acres of high land in the suburbs of the city, making an ideal